

You're not going to save money till you make some tough decisions. Maybe this one's too tough. I understand that. It's not a fun one, I know that. I've got the calls. I've looked in people's eyes. I understand it all too well. But the only thing I do know, unless you're going to make some tough decisions somewhere, you're going to have to pay the bill and make decisions on taxes and that's fine. People want to do that. But we're going to have to make decisions on cutting somebody else. I have always said from the beginning before we start cutting other people's budgets and before we start raising other people's taxes, we need to find some way to save money in Medicaid. The only way that I've found yet that even might do that is with the optional services and if we do away with that we are on the wrong...we're on the right course, I believe, with Senator Wesely's amendment, that's fine, but I don't think you can sit there and say we've done anything to even remotely reduce Medicaid this session.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Dierks on the amendment by Senator Moore. He waives off. Senator Hohenstein on Senator Moore's amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Thank you, Senator Hall. Members of the body, I have a couple of questions and I guess I want to follow up a little bit on Senator Moore's questions, the concerns about the amount of money that is saved. Senator Wesely, on the handout, and I have looked it over on the Medicaid budget savings, the DSS administrative cuts, the 8.2 million dollars, those were something that was done without legislative action?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Those were administrative decisions, that's correct, but it was something with the exception of caretaker relative, that we did work with or basically have some approval for, but it was their choice.

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Okay. So that's there whether we did anything at all this year or not on Medicaid.

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah.